Marie Jean Pierre Flourens Encyclopedia Article

Marie Jean Pierre Flourens

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Marie Jean Pierre Flourens

1794-1867

French physiologist who determined the functions of the major parts of the vertebrate brain. Using pigeons, he observed the physiological changes that occurred when certain portions of their brains were removed. From his studies, he demonstrated that higher intellectual abilities are found in the cerebral hemispheres, that movement is regulated by the cerebellum, and that vital bodily functions are controlled by the medulla oblongata. He also linked the semicircular canals of the inner ear to the body's equilibrium.